

Claims

- [c1] An indicator for characterizing human skin condition comprising:
a flowable carrier, suitable for application to human skin; and
at least one dye soluble with oil found on human skin, and visually
changeable when in solution with oil on human skin;
wherein any visual change in the at least one dye is proportional to the
amount of the oil present in solution;
whereby when the indicator is applied to an area of human skin, and the at
least one dye contacts and reacts with the oil in the area, the indicator will
display a visual indication of the skin condition in the area based on the
amount of the oil in the area.
- [c2] The indicator of claim 1 wherein the flowable carrier comprises water and at
least one rheology modifier.
- [c3] The indicator of claim 2 wherein the at least one rheology modifier
comprises a ceramic material.
- [c4] The indicator of claim 3 wherein the at least one rheology modifier
comprises a clay material.
- [c5] The indicator of claim 4 wherein the at least one rheology modifier
comprises bentonite clay.
- [c6] The indicator of claim 2 wherein the at least one rheology modifier
comprises a polymer material.
- [c7] The indicator of claim 6 wherein the at least one rheology modifier
comprises a high molecular weight homo- or copolymer of acrylic acid
crosslinked with a polyalkenyl polyether.

- [c8] The indicator of claim 6 wherein the at least one rheology modifier comprises methylcellulose.
- [c9] The indicator of claim 6 wherein the at least one rheology modifier comprises polyvinyl alcohol.
- [c10] The indicator of claim 1 further comprising at least one opacifier.
- [c11] The indicator of claim 10 wherein the at least one opacifier comprises titanium dioxide.
- [c12] The indicator of claim 1 wherein the oil comprises sebum.
- [c13] The indicator of claim 1 wherein the at least one dye is encapsulated in at least one material that is altered when in contact with the oil secreted by the human skin.
- [c14] The indicator of claim 1 wherein the at least one dye comprises at least one Drug and Cosmetics colorant.
- [c15] The indicator of claim 14 wherein the at least one Drug and Cosmetics colorant comprises at least one of violet 2, yellow 11, and red 17.
- [c16] The indicator of claim 1 wherein the visual change is an appearance of a color.
- [c17] The indicator of claim 1 wherein the visual change is a change in intensity of a color.
- [c18] The indicator of claim 1 and further comprising a reference whereby the user can characterize the skin condition with the assistance thereof.
- [c19] The indicator of claim 18 wherein the reference comprises a chart having indicia representative of a plurality of skin conditions and captions

associated with each of the plurality of skin conditions whereby a user can align the chart in register with a particular area of the activated indicator and compare the indicia on the chart with the particular area of the indicator to determine the skin condition as described by the caption associated therewith.

- [c20] The system of claim 1 wherein the flowable carrier is spreadable.
- [c21] The system of claim 20 wherein the flowable carrier is peelable.
- [c22] The system of claim 20 wherein the flowable carrier is a gel.
- [c23] The system of claim 1 wherein the flowable carrier is a powder.
- [c24] A method of employing a flowable indicator for characterizing skin condition comprising the following steps:
 - applying the flowable indicator to a desired area of skin, wherein the indicator is reactive with at least one substance found on the skin;
 - activating the flowable indicator through a reaction of the indicator with the at least one substance found on the skin after a period of time; and
 - comparing the activated flowable indicator to a reference to characterize skin condition.
- [c25] The method of claim 24 and further comprising a step of waiting for the flowable indicator to activate.
- [c26] The method of claim 25 and further comprising a step of determining if the flowable indicator is activated.
- [c27] The method of claim 26 and further comprising a step of waiting further for the flowable indicator to activate if the user has determined that the flowable indicator is not yet activated.

- [c28] The method of claim 27 and further comprising a step of determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the characterized skin condition.
- [c29] The method of claim 24 and further comprising a step of determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the characterized skin condition.
- [c30] The method of claim 24 and further comprising a step of providing a visual reference for comparison of the activated flowable indicator to a standardized reference point to determine skin condition.
- [c31] The method of claim 30 and further comprising a step of determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the determined skin condition.